

BOOK NOTICES

Insect Singers, A Natural History of the Cicadas. By J. G. Myers. George Routledge and Sons, Limited, London, 1929, 304 pp., 7 plates, 116 text figures, also bibliography and index.

This book tells what is at present known about cicadas and also gives a lengthy account of man's interest in these conspicuous insects that were written about a thousand years before Christ.

The account of cicadas in art and literature is the subject of the first two chapters and cover thirty-nine pages, but there are quotations from Aristotle and other early observers throughout the book. Chapter IV is on the external structure, V on the internal structure of cicadas, and VI on the sound-organs. Then follow chapters on the classification of cicadas, their evolution, life-history, distribution, relations with other organisms, their feeding-habits, their vertebrate and invertebrate enemies, their relations with man (gastronomic and otherwise), cicada psychology, their behavior, their songs, and lastly chapter twenty-one on methods of collection, preservation and study.

The bibliography covers forty-nine pages and will be very useful, though the author states that it is by no means complete. The index covers eighteen pages.

With its pleasing historical approach to their study, and the thoroughness with which each subject is covered, this book will be among the first to be consulted by those desiring information concerning the ever interesting cicadas that live so long in the dark beneath the surface of the ground, suddenly come forth, split their integument, and produce from active pupae very different looking creatures that directly commence to sing.—Wm. T. Davis.

Studies on the Biology of Kansas Cicadidae. By Raymond H. Beamer. Reprinted from the University of Kansas Science Bulletin. Vol. XVIII, April, 1928. 76 pp. 16 plates.

After treating of such interesting matters as rearing cicadas from the egg to adult, there is a detailed account more or less